

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 SSM-03 ACDA-12 OMB-01 /104 W
-----023406 062208Z /21

P 062152Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9349
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
ALL USCONS MEXICO POUCH

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, MX, UNSC
SUBJECT: MEXICO DECIDES AGAINST SENDING TROOPS TO UN
FORCE IN LEBANON

REF: A) USUN NEW YORK 01252 B) MEXICO 5535 (NOTAL)

1. IN AN APRIL 5 NOTE TO UNSG WALDHEIM, GOM SECRETARY OF
FOREIGN RELATIONS ROEL INFORMED HIM THAT GOM HAD DECIDED
NOT TO SEND 600 MAN CONTINGENT TO UN FORCES IN SOUTHERN
LEBANON. THE NOTE CITED MEXICO'S TRADITIONAL POSITION
(NON-INTERVENTION) IN RESPONDING TO PREVIOUS UN REQUESTS
FOR TROOPS, THE VAGUENESS OF THE UN MANDATE (IN SOUTHERN
LEBANON), AND THE "DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES" PREVAILING.
THE DECISION WAS TAKEN FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN
SECRETARY ROEL AND SECRETARY OF DEFENSE GALVAN WITH
PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO.

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2. NOTWITHSTANDING EARLIER INDICATION THAT MEXICO MIGHT
PARTICIPATE IN UNIFIL, NEGATIVE DECISION WAS LIKELY TAKEN
AS A RESULT OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS AND POLITICAL
PRESSURES, MAINLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY FROM THE LEFT.
ARTICLE 76 OF THE MEXICAN CONSTITUTION REQUIRES THE PRESI-
DENT TO OBTAIN SENATE AUTHORIZATION TO SEND TROOPS ABROAD.
EVEN THOUGH THE SENATE IS NOT IN SESSION, IT COULD HAVE

BEEN CALLED TOGETHER, AND WOULD HAVE PROBABLY AUTHORIZED THE MISSION, IF THERE WERE A CONSENSUS AMONG THE POLITICAL ELITE BACKING MEXICAN PARTICIPATION. HOWEVER, LEFTIST POLITICAL PARTIES (PCM, PPS) AND NATIONALISTIC POLITICAL COMMENTATORS PUBLICLY OPPOSED MEXICAN PARTICIPATION IN UNIFIL. THE PCM (COMMUNIST) CITED THE IMPERIALIST BACKING OF UNIFIL AS REASON FOR MEXICAN NON-PARTICIPATION. NATIONALISTIC EDITORIALISTS CONCENTRATED ON THE POSSIBLE LOSS OF MEXICAN SOLDIERS IN AN ILL-DEFINED OPERATION IN A DISTANT LAND. GIVEN GOM NEED FOR SUPPORT OF THESE ELEMENTS ON IMPORTANT DOMESTIC ISSUES, THE PRESIDENT MAY HAVE DECIDED THAT UNIFIL WAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY VITAL TO MEXICO TO EXPEND HIS POLITICAL CAPITAL.

3. EMBOFFS WILL DISCUSS MATTER WITH AMB SERGIO GONZALEZ GALVEZ, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE, AND REPORT ANY ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND. THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

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